

Department of Defense Bloggers Roundtable With Captain James Morgan,  
Mission Commander; Captain Timothy Hinman, Medical Treatment Command;  
Captain Jonathan Olmsted, Ship's Master, USNS Mercy, Military Sealift  
Command Via Teleconference Subject: Pacific Partnership 2012 Time: 11:00  
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WILLIAM SELBY (Office of the Secretary of Defense for Public  
Affairs): Well, I'd like to welcome you all to the Department of Defense  
Bloggers Roundtable for Wednesday, April 18, 2012. My name is William  
Selby, with the Office of the Secretary of Defense Public Affairs, and I  
will be moderating our call today.

Today we're honored to have as our guests with -- mission  
leadership for the U.S. Pacific Fleet-sponsored Pacific Partnership 2012:  
Captain James Morgan, mission commander; Captain Timothy Hinman, medical  
treatment facility commanding officer; and Captain Jonathan Olmsted,  
ship's master for U.S. USNS Mercy, Military Sealift Command. And they  
will be discussing Pacific Partnership 2012. A note to everybody on the  
line today: Please remember to clearly state your name and blog or  
organization in advance of your question, keep your -- I'm sorry --  
respect the captains' time, and keep your questions succinct and to the  
point. And if you are not asking a question, please keep your phone on  
mute.

With that, to all the speakers on the line, if you have any  
opening statements, the floor is yours.

CAPTAIN JAMES MORGAN: This is Captain Morgan. I'm the -- as  
you said, the designated mission commander for Pacific Partnership 2012.  
First of all, I want to say thank you, William for hosting this and  
moderating this event this morning, and for everybody who is  
participating in this conference call or this blogger roundtable.

A little bit of background about Pacific Partnership. Pacific  
Partnership 2012 is now in its seventh mission. It started or was --  
came from the initial response to the 2004 tsunami which devastated the  
Indonesian region in that year. That event and the response from the  
international community, specifically Mercy, as part of unified  
assistance, showed really the need for the international community,

specifically our international partner nations, host nations, to really come together as part of a dedicated planning mission to respond and build capacity within the Asia-Pacific region to respond to natural disasters. That region, extremely dangerous, it's often referred to as a ring of fire.

Over the two years since 2004, moving on to 2006, we deployed Pacific Partnership onboard USNS Mercy as the first dedicated, focused mission of host nations, partner nations and nongovernmental organizations as the first dedicated deployment to building capacity to respond to natural disasters.

It is an annual mission conducted either on the Mercy or a U.S. Navy vessel, what we call a grey hull. It has been conducted for each year since 2006, the last mission being conducted on board the USS Cleveland in 2011.

This year's mission will deploy on the 1st of May 2012 and will conduct 14-day missions in Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam. This will constitute the fourth time we have conducted the mission in the Philippines, the fourth time we have conducted the mission in Vietnam, the third time that we will have conducted the mission in Indonesia, and the second time for Cambodia.

So with that being said, I am very anxious to answer any questions you may have. I will enjoy the discussion, and I would like to turn it over to the other members of the mission leadership team to make their opening comments.

First, I'd like to turn it over to Captain John Olmsted. He is the master of what we refer (to ?) also as the commanding officer of a Military Sealift Command ship. He has also took part in the 2009 Pacific Partnership mission when he was the master commanding officer of the Richard Byrd.

So over to Captain Olmsted.

CAPTAIN JONATHAN OLMSTED: Thank you, Commodore, and good morning to all listeners. I just want to give you some quick facts about the Mercy.

Mercy is one of two Navy hospital ships. Her sister ship, Comfort, operates out of Baltimore. Mercy is close to 900 feet long, roughly the length of three football fields, just a couple hundred feet short of an aircraft carrier. Mercy and her sister ship Comfort were both originally built as commercial oil tankers and then converted into hospital ships and delivered to the Navy in the late '80s. And Mercy has been home-ported in San Diego since the late '90s.

Throughout the year, Military Sealift Command who -- (audio interference) -- all of the Navy's noncombatant ships, including the hospital ships -- Military Sealift Command keeps both hospital ships in what we call a reduced operating status, with a bare skeleton crew to maintain the ship's machinery and hospital equipment. But, in case of

any emergency, any natural disaster where the hospital ships would be -- (audio interference) -- they can be ready to sail in just five days.

This year's mission, to help with the cargo, personnel, logistics piece, will be carrying two Navy MH-60 helicopters, and they'll be helping transfer cargo and personnel ashore. Mercy deploys every other year and, on even-numbered years, such as 2012, she is the platform of choice for Pacific Partnership.

Mercy's crew, under Military Sealift Command, is comprised of 70 civilian mariners, like myself, to run and operate the ship. Though we work on Navy ships, we're not actually military members; we're not active duty. We're considered Navy civilians or civil service mariners. Our civilian crew is exceptionally experienced and highly skilled. They're licensed and credentialed by the Coast Guard as U.S. merchant mariners. We work on ships for a living, often spending our entire careers at sea. Our primary job, as far as running and operating the ship, is to navigate the ship safely from point A to point B. But we're also responsible for keeping the lights on, the water running, and the toilets flushing throughout the ship, including the hospital and all living spaces on board.

This year's mission is particularly challenging (for ?) one aspect that the Mercy, because of her size and because we'll be visiting many remote areas -- we won't actually be pulling into port and tying up. We'll be either anchoring offshore or steaming offshore some distance because the water's just too shallow for us to pull in. So, in order to move doctors, nurses and patients back to forth -- back and forth, we're going to be operating two 33-foot utility boats, 12 to 16 hours a day, acting as passenger ferries. Now those boats, along with the helicopters, are going to provide the bulk of the ship-to-shore logistics piece for the mission.

Now, those boats, along with the helicopters, are going to provide the bulk of the ship-to-shore logistics piece for the mission.

Our civilian crew is also composed of skilled engineers -- engineering officers and unlicensed engineers who will be going ashore to assist with technical projects, engineering repair projects ashore, as well as participating in subject matter expert exchanges.

So on behalf of Military Sealift Command, the civilian crew is very excited about the mission. We're looking forward to participate.

And now I'm going to turn it over to Captain Hinman, the senior medical officer on the ship, to discuss Mercy's medical treatment facility and her medical capabilities.

CAPTAIN TIMOTHY HINMAN: Thank you --

MR. SELBY: Captain Hinman, one more second before you start. There were two beeps. Did others join?

Q: Yes. Hello?

MR. SELBY: Yes.

Q: Yeah, Kyle Mizokami from Japan Security Watch.

MR. SELBY: OK. And did anybody else join? OK, just a reminder, please keep your phone on mute, Kyle. I don't -- I went through that whole spiel, but please keep your phone on mute if you're not asking questions, and we'll be -- we'll go to questions after the next statement.

Q: OK. Thank you.

MR. SELBY: And go ahead, Captain. Thank you, sir.

CAPT. HINMAN: And this is Captain Tim Hinman. I am the commanding officer aboard the Mercy hospital. Its primary mission is an afloat mobile surgical and medical facility that is flexible, capable and uniquely adaptable to support expeditionary warfare, as has been proven by its use in Operation Desert shield. The U.S. hospital ships have also been employed on numerous missions for humanitarian and disaster relief, notable examples including the 2010 Haiti earthquake, 2005 Hurricane Katrina and the 2004 tsunami that Captain Morgan referred to that led to the genesis of what we now know as Pacific Partnership.

What the hospital brings on this mission is significant medical mission capability. We are the equivalent of any large hospital that you might find on land, both in the United States as well as overseas. Mercy has one of the largest capabilities to receive and treat trauma anywhere in the world, onshore or on the water.

We have full-spectrum surgical and medical services, X-ray, CT, dental, optometry, a lens fabrication lab, physical therapy, angiography, pharmacy, even the capability to produce our own oxygen. The real capacity, though, is in the people that we'll be bringing. The backbone of the personnel for this mission are sourced from Navy Medicine hospitals throughout the world. They're the best and the brightest, often teaching faculties in the residency programs that we have.

What will we be -- what we will be doing on this mission to build and bring capacity is build relationships with partner nations, NGOs, our host nation military -- or medical professionals, and we will be performing medical care, dental care and veterinary care at sites set up within the host country. Our people are just as excited to learn as well as teach, and our environment is such that we will be able to interact with host nation and partner nation and our NGO partners.

We will also conduct surgery onboard the ship. We have numerous surgical specialties that we will be bringing with us, to include: general surgery; pediatric surgery; OB-GYN; orthopedic surgery; ear, nose and throat, to name a few. Patients from the host nations that we visit will be able to come aboard the ship and receive services in the form of surgery.

The last tier of what we bring medically for this mission and in other respects as well will be our subject matter expert exchanges. These are events where we will facilitate understanding in other health care systems and amongst ourselves. So doctors, nurses, dentists, veterinarians from differing backgrounds will work side by side at our MEDCAP, DENCAP and VETCAP sites. We'll also host professional symposiums, conferences, exercises and that age-old manner in which doctors teach other doctors about their patients through patient rounding, both on the hospital ship Mercy as well as host nation hospitals.

At this time I'd like to open up any questions. And we're very thrilled to be here and talk to you more about our mission.

CAPT. MORGAN (?): I think it's over to you now, William.

MR. SELBY: Thank you very much, sir. (Clears throat.) Excuse me.

And Chuck, you were first on the line.

Q: Yes. Chuck Simmins from America's North Shore Journal. Thank you for taking the call today, gentlemen. Just a comment. I'm wondering if Captain Morgan will be directing any antipiracy efforts while he's -- (chuckles) -- in command. And my question goes to how does a private organization, an NGO, become a part of Pacific Partnership.

CAPT. MORGAN: To answer your first question, the mission of Pacific Partnership is a humanitarian civic assistance and capacity-building mission; it is not designated as part of any antipiracy task force, so it's not part of that capacity that navies bring to the area, so --

Q: I was -- I was a poorly timed comment on your name, I'm afraid.

(Laughter.)

CAPT. MORGAN: Well, that is -- I did not make that connection. So that's what happens when you can't see the people that are asking the question. But that -- I get it now. So -- but you know what? I took this question very seriously, and that would be the question -- that would be the answer to the question. (Laughs.)

Q: Well, I -- it's good to know that the mission's distanced itself completely from security issues like that. You know, I think it'll probably make it more palatable for the people you work with that you're purely humanitarian.

CAPT. MORGAN: Yeah. But, to your second question, which I assume was the serious one --

Q: Yes.

CAPT. MORGAN: -- is the -- an NGO can apply to participate in the mission if they can bring a credentialed capacity to complement the mission. I'd like to emphasize the importance that the NGOs bring to this mission because they are really our continuity from mission to mission. To -- from mission to mission, the command staff change out, the mission commander staff change out, but some of our NGOs, like Latter-day Saints, Global Grins, the -- any number of the NGOs, though, that participate in the mission provide that continuity from year to year.

If they bring a capacity and a credentialed capacity to the mission, such as dentistry, medical engineering, interpretation for the host country to bridge the gap between English and the host nation language, they can apply to that through the CINCPACFLT staff, the commander -- the COMPACFLT staff, and they are the organization that takes those offers, evaluates what they would bring to the mission, and ultimately would make the decision about whether they participate.

So that being said, we always would like to have more participants because they complement what we already bring in terms of the military side of things, and again, emphasizing the importance of our NGOs, our partner nations as well, they would work that through the COMPACFLT staff in Hawaii. And in this case we would roll that up into the 2013 mission, which would deploy about the same time next year.

Q: Thank you, sir.

CAPT. MORGAN: You're welcome. Thank you for the question.

MR. SELBY: And Dale, you were next.

Q: Good morning. This is Dale Kissinger from MilitaryAvenue.com. I'm not as quick on the name as Chuck was, but I have a question about numbers. How many people will be involved in the exercise from all of the military organizations, the NGOs and other participants, and how many patients do you expect to treat?

CAPT. MORGAN: I'll just take the first part of that question and then I'll defer to Captain Hinman, the commanding officer of the medical treatment facility. At any one time, we expect to deploy with over a thousand people on board USNS Mercy. That's NGOs, military, partner and host nations. So we embark those personnel in San Diego, Hawaii, when we stop there, and Guam.

Those numbers change because we have NGOs that participate throughout the mission, we have NGOs that participate in certain countries, we have certain partner nations that participate in the mission from start to finish, we have certain partner nations that only participate within certain countries. So that number fluctuates at any one time based on the country, where the -- where our NGOs and our partner nations can embark.

I like to -- and I'd like to talk in terms of a thousand as a point of departure.

So, in that -- at that -- at this point, I'd just like to turn it over to Tim and let him talk about the medical question that you asked.

Q: Yeah, and --

CAPT. HINMAN: Thank you, Jim.

There are approximately 700 uniformed military members that will take place (sic) in the medical part of this mission and then, at each stop, probably about 150 NGOs and partner nations that'll help augment our staff. Now, that's not including the host nation medical -- our partners at the host nation medical facilities as well because we certainly encourage their assistance and want to interact with them and develop professional relationships, which brings me to the second point. It's not about the numbers necessarily, that we reach a certain number to be successful. But it's about creating professional relationships, and we've designed our activities to enhance that.

(If ?) -- back to numbers, on board the ship, we can -- we'll probably accommodate around a hundred to about 150 surgeries. We want to only take as -- the number that we can do safely and do the procedures that we would be able to perform safely as well.

Does that answer your questions?

Q: It does. Is that a total of a hundred to 150 surgeries or is that at each stop, at each country?

CAPT. HINMAN: That'll be at each stop.

Q: OK, thank you, sir.

CAPT. MORGAN: Yeah, I think one of the things I've learned is, as I've -- this is my first time taking part in a -- in a mission like this -- is when it comes to the surgeries and the surgical procedures, what people -- what I had to -- came to realize is we conduct the mission 14 days in each country. So the procedure has to be started, recovered from, and then the patient return to the host country -- host nation country within those 14 days. So it's important to realize that we are bounded more by time than we are by capacity and capability. So I think the numbers would go up if we had more time and so forth, and I will let Tim add to any of that, if he could.

CAPT. HINMAN: Yeah, I'd just like to add that it -- you know, I'd just like to reiterate that we're not just doing surgery. We'll have the medical care sites, the veterinary care sites, the dental care sites on land, and we'll have multiple versions of those, and we'll take as many patients as we can. Oftentimes those encounters will be acute care type issues or chronic care type issues, but there will be much more in numbers that will be generated at those sites.

But again, it's not -- it's not the numbers that we're interested in. It's the relationships. And that's where I like to emphasize that we're really there for the subject matter expert exchanges. And the conferencing, the interactions that we have with their medical professionals, exchange of information, some disaster exercises, symposiums, doctors rounding, working with them and their medical systems as well.

Q: Thank you very much.

MR. SELBY: And Beth, you were next.

Q: Good morning, gentlemen. Thank you for taking this call.

First I'd like to say I'm Beth Wilson from Homefront in Focus, and I had the opportunity to embed with the Comfort a couple years ago on Continuing Promise. So I have such a huge respect for the capabilities of these vessels and the staff that embarks.

And I just met your ombudsman last night, so it was very fun to talk to her knowing I was going to be on the call today.

I have a couple quick questions about your NGOs. Do you have -- can you tell me some of your NGO partners that are going to be joining you?

Is the Rotary coming on? You did mention LDS. Who else will be joining you, and what is their role -- (inaudible)?

CAPT. MORGAN: We -- this is Captain Morgan. We're tracking at this point -- and this is a -- this is a changing number at any one time. We're tracking at least 21 NGOs right now, talking -- NGOs such as Compassion Flower, Fit for School, Global Grins, HOPE Worldwide, the Latter-day Saints Charities, Project Handclasp, Project HOPE, reproductive health, the Starfish Project, University of California- San Diego Pre-Dental Society, University of Hawaii engineers, University of Hawaii nursing, Vietnam Medical Assistance Program and several others.

So what --

Q: (Inaudible.)

CAPT. MORGAN: What we count on them for is to provide at -- you know, at their offer, additional capacity, whether it's medical, dental -- as part of World Vets, they provide capacity to plus up our veterinary corps of folks. So at any one time they provide, again, continuity of the mission from year to year because these are people that repeatedly come back to take part in Pacific Partnership or Continuing Promise. And in addition, if they do not provide personnel, then they certainly provide either -- both personnel or donations. And in the case of Global Grins, they provided -- they have -- providing or have already provided over a hundred thousand toothbrushes.



So in that sense, those are just some of the NGOs from here in the United States.

We also coordinate with the NGOs in each country through the embassy as well as USAID.

So, hopefully that answers your question at least in the broader sense, and I think Captain Hinman could probably provide a few extra comments on that.

CAPT. HINMAN: Yeah, I just have a couple of comments on the medical side. Where I see the most benefit or we have the most participation is in nursing care, in the operating room, operating support from anesthesia providers. One of the reasons that we do this mission is that we -- in Captain Morgan's words, we can prepare in calm for crisis. And so the more we can work with our NGOs and partner nations, the better we'll be able to do that.

But already I'm seeing the paybacks from that, because many of our NGOs are repeat customers. They are coming back to us and we're learning from them on their experiences that they've had in prior Pacific Partnership missions, and that has gone into our planning process.

Over.

Q: Thank you very much.

MR. SELBY: Thank you.

And Kyle, you are next.

Q: Yes. Good morning, everybody. This is Kyle Mizokami. I'm with Japan Security Watch and a few other blogs. And I have a question about Japan. I was wondering if they are -- if the self-defense forces are sending anybody that's here. I know they usually send a ship, and if -- if they're coming, if -- where the ships will be meeting up, and, you know, what, if anything, unique that they bring to the table.

Thank you.

CAPT. MORGAN: The government of Japan, the Japanese military are providing a contingent of personnel to participate in the mission in the Philippines and Vietnam.

They are also committed to providing one of their amphibious ships, one of the ships that provides support vessels to go from shore to land and land back to shore. That's -- at this point the Oosumi, and that also brings her LCACs (ph), her air cushion vessels. Already touched a little bit about providing that capacity to move personnel ashore, to move parts ashore, and right now they have committed to two of those -- two of those four countries.

Oosumi is -- if you'd like, to spell it out -- it's O-O-S-U-M-I -- and the Japanese have been aligned with us since we began the planning process for this mission back in 2011.

Over.

Oh, and Captain Hinman has a comment.

CAPT. HINMAN (?): And again, from the medical side, the Japanese are very much engaged and will participate. They are sending 20 personnel. Those personnel will work in the operating rooms aboard the ship as well as our medical care sites onshore.

Over.

MR. SELBY: Thank you very much, sir.

And back around to Chuck.

Q: Yes, yes, (is the fifth ?) uniformed service of the United States, the Public Health Service, participating in the Pacific Partnership 2012?

MR. SELBY: Unfortunately not. We welcomed them, but they were unable to attend.

Q: Thank you.

MR. SELBY: It still sounds like somebody may not have their phone on mute. Just a reminder: Please have your phone on mute if you're not asking a question.

Dale, you are next.

Q: Yes, sir. Again, thank you for taking the time. My question concerns the helicopters and also that list of NGOs. Could you have that emailed to William and forwarded to us so that we can just have the whole list from you?

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER SONIA MARIA LOHMEYER: William -- I'm sorry this is Lieutenant Commander Lohmeyer of the PAO. I apologize if the press packet material did not get forwarded to you --

MR. SELBY: All right.

LT. CMDR. LOHMEYER: -- and we will make sure that that happens today.

MR. SELBY: I can forward that.

LT. CMDR. LOHMEYER: And we'll include all of that information.

Q: OK, thank you.

The helicopters -- I'm a former Air Force HH-60 pilot, and I have flown a lot of relief and rescue missions in hostile environments where the local civilians were very appreciative of the efforts we made. I'm curious how many sorties you anticipate for the MH-60s on board while they're in this exercise?

CAPT. MORGAN: The sorties flown will depend a lot on the amount of -- it varies from country to country, depending on whether or not we rely predominantly on roads to provide the material to the sites, whether or not we have to deliver them further inland to the sites for further transportation. So they are fully funded for the mission and for flight hours to conduct any number of sorties. So that's not limited anywhere.

Clearly we hope for the weather to cooperate, both for the movement of boats and personnel ashore. We look for the weather to cooperate to support flight operations on a daily basis. But I expect to fly a significant number of sorties, and I can defer to Captain Olmsted to see if he has any other comments.

But Mercy was outfitted with a fully functioning helo hangar over the last several years, so that added that capacity as well. So that being said, a lot of factors go into that. But we'll rely heavily on our helicopters to -- for personnel movement ashore and, more importantly, logistics support ashore.

Over.

Q: OK, thank you very much.

MR. SELBY: And Beth.

Q: Sorry, typing away here. Gentlemen, thank you so much for taking time to be with us this morning. I look forward to getting your press packet. My last follow-on question is I am assuming that this is a joint forces operation within our own military. Is that a correct assumption?

CAPT. MORGAN: It is. I've actually referred to this mission as a mission that shows a whole-of-government approach. Pacific Partnership -- the countries we go to, we do so with the invitation of those host nations. So when it comes to this year's mission, we've been invited by Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia to take part in this mission.

We've also invited and -- a number of partner nations, which we've already talked about. There are 13 partner nations that are currently taking part in it, as well as the NGOs and the government organizations. The Pacific Partnership is represented across the interagency as well. It includes the Department of State, USAID, the Department of Justice, NOAA, plus all the other services. So again, I re-emphasize it as a -- as a whole-of-government approach.

And specifically for the -- for the Army, they are active participants in our civil-military coordination center, which is a(n)

entity or organization we have stood up on Mercy to bring the NGOs, the partner nations together in one place to integrate into the planning process for the mission on a daily basis.

The Army provides significant veterinary capacity; the Air Force has brought us public affairs; and we can count on, if we need them, the Marine Corps to provide force protection if we need -- if it's required.

So those are just some examples of how we coordinate with the other services but, more importantly, how we bring together the agencies outside of the military to this mission to conduct 14 days in four countries that have invited us to do so.

Over.

Q: Can I ask one follow-on question?

CAPT. MORGAN: Sure.

Q: Is there going to be an opportunity or would there be an opportunity to hear from you throughout the mission just to get feedback and updates on the mission at the various stops, the four countries?

CAPT. MORGAN: I'm going to let Maria Lohmeyer talk about that. But as I've gone through different media events and talked about the mission, I've continually stressed that social media and social outreach through those media is an important part of the mission. So I will allow Maria to talk a little bit more about the various avenues that we intend to use during the mission when we deploy.

LT. CMDR. LOHMEYER: Thank you, sir.

Yes, there will be opportunities to connect back with all three of our leaders throughout the mission. We do, as he mentioned -- as Captain Morgan mentioned, we will be conducting, of course, social media. And when you get the press packet, you'll see we're all over the place. If you go to -- I'll just slowly read it to to everybody -- [www.cpf.navy.mil/pp](http://www.cpf.navy.mil/pp), that is the Commander Pacific Fleet Public Affairs website, and it does take you directly to our mission, and which was rolled out. It takes you to the blog, a very robust blog plan that we have, not only to bring you news from our leaders, but our NGOs, our partner and host nations.

We have a very detailed schedule to try and put out blogs every -- about two a week, to give you that firsthand perspective of what's happening with the mission both aboard the ship and ashore.

We'll also plan to continue working with DMA to set DOD Blogger Roundtables so that you have an opportunity to ask additional questions during the mission.

And we are looking, for one of the first times ever, at doing a blogger embed in each country as we approach -- so that's a little bit still in development, but certainly we'll be -- we'll continue and I'll

want to continue stay in touch with you all, so I'll get everyone's information from William and we can stay in touch.

Q: Thank you.

CAPT. : Yeah. I think I need to kind of put a plug in to DOD in this for William. I rely heavily on the DOD media websites for automatic updates via their subscription process. These are things you can sign up for. They are routed directly to your email account. I was pretty -- I was surprised. I did several media events yesterday, briefed the Pentagon press corps, did some -- I actually talked to a couple of bloggers yesterday as part of that. And the amount of -- the rapid pace at which those are turned around into the outer audience is pretty incredible. So if you -- you can tailor those to what you want to get and what you want to see or what you're interested in. And I rely -- them -- on a lot lot to stay on top of what our senior leaders are doing, whether it's DOD, whether it's Department of State. I think it's a great way to stay in touch, if you're interested in getting those on a regular basis.

Over.

Q: Thank you. Appreciate that.

MR. SELBY: Thank you.

And Kyle.

Q: I had no further questions. Thank you.

LT. CMDR LOHMEYER: William, this is Commander Lohmeyer. May I -- may I just kind of usurp you for one moment?

MR. SELBY: Yes, ma'am.

LT. CMDR LOHMEYER: The -- I think one important thing that maybe we want to have the mission commander talk about is something new that's been brought to the mission. We've talked a lot about the NGOs. There seems to be a lot of interest in that. Sir, if you would just talk a little bit about the CMCC, what we call the CMCC, the civil-military coordination cell, tell them a little bit about the background with that, where it came from and the model that we're trying to move forward with.

CAPT. MORGAN: Yeah, that's a -- that's a good point. The -- we rely heavily during the planning process for the mission on previous lessons learned from previous mission commanders. So one of the -- one of the lessons learned that came out of previous missions was, A, building on the capacity that our NGOs, our partner nations and our host nations bring to the -- bring to Pacific Partnership. What we -- what we were lacking when we brought them together was a way to integrate them not only into the daily rhythm of how we were doing the mission, but also into the future planning cycle that we take part in every day as we look 24 hours out, 46 (sic) hours out, 72 hours out.

So the suggestion was -- and what we're doing for the first time is we're going to bring those entities together in what we call the civil-military coordination center. And what the thought here is and the vision is to allow our NGOs, our host nations, U.S. civilian organizations and our military players to come together in one place to talk about and plan civil-military operations -- (inaudible) -- as things change during the course of the mission.

They would perform liaison and coordination capabilities. They would collect and analyze assessments as we move from country to country. They'd interface for operational-level coordination. But, more importantly, they would be able to take what they know and what they observe on a daily basis and try and bring it all together into the planning cycle that we use on a daily basis to execute the mission.

So this is the first time we've actually tried this, again, built on lessons learned from previous missions, to try and bring this organization together in one dedicated space so that they can monitor the mission, they can plan the mission, they can assess the mission, and then integrate into the planning process that we do really on a 24-hour basis on any given day.

So hopefully that gives you that some sort of idea of what we're trying to accomplish here. I think this is what I would call a test run, something we're doing for the first time and looking forward to seeing how it operates over the mission and how we can build on it for future missions after 2012 is complete.

Over.

MR. SELBY: Thank you very much, sir.

Well, with that, we've had -- does anybody have any questions on that, Chuck first?

Q: I just wanted to ask about that in particular. Are the NGOs going to each provide a representative or are you going to have kind of a command structure among the NGOs as well? It kind of seems like it might be a pretty crowded room.

CAPT. MORGAN: Well, it -- that is something that we have taken into account. We would like to have each NGO have representation there, and what's important to realize is, for Pacific Partnership, we don't have the full complement of every NGO that participates in the mission throughout the mission. We have NGOs that participate at -- in certain countries. We have certain NGOs that embark and debark at certain places, and that's also true of our partner nations. We have certain partner nations that take part in the mission from the start to the finish. We have some that only participate in one or two countries.

So, at any one time, it's a -- it's a constantly changing number of who's participating at any one time. We looked at that. We thought it was a manageable process. Any time you try something for the first time, you're going to have to make adjustments based on what you see

real-time. But I believe this is a worthwhile process, and we will not get it perfect the first time. But we believe that we can take this, evaluate it and see if it's worthwhile for future missions, especially if it brings more fidelity and more capacity to the planning process to set this table for a more successful mission. But certainly our NGOs and our partner nations needs some sort of forum to coordinate their efforts so that they can bring their thoughts and desires to the planning cycle.

Over.

Q: Thank you.

MR. SHELBY: Dale, did you have a follow-up?

Q: No, I'm done, thank you. That was great.

MR. SHELBY: Roger that.

Beth?

Q: I'm good. Thank you very much.

MR. SHELBY: You're welcome.

And Kyle (sp) said he was good too.

So, with that, I -- thank you very much to everybody on the line for your questions, and thank you again for your comments and all the information you have provided today to the captains online.

If you have any closing statements, the floor is yours for that.

CAPT. MORGAN: Yeah, William, I think what I'd like to do is just -- everybody who's in the room or in the roundtable, to kind of explain a little bit of the in-depth coordination and planning that goes into this mission. And I'm only going to take a couple of minutes to describe that.

But I was designated as the mission commander for Pacific Partnership mid-2011. I was actually on deployment with Ronald Reagan Strike Group. I think it's important to emphasize that we responded to the tsunami that struck Japan off of the eastern coast of that country in 2011. And I honestly believe that, based on that experience, the importance of building relationships over a long period of time, the capacity that you bring to a mission, you execute and carry out that mission because of the relationships you build during that time and over the course of many years.

So I believe that that validates the importance of conducting exercises and missions like Pacific Partnership, because it's those relationships -- the trust, the capacity you build together -- because we've seen what can happen in that area of the world and we need to rely on that because we know at some point we're all going to have to come together, because that's just how we respond these days.

But after I was designated as mission commander, we returned from deployment. We initially held our initial planning conference. Once the initial planning conference was over with, we formed four different -- or four predeployment site survey teams. The Blue Team deployed to two of the countries, the other team deployed to two of the countries, so we actually went to these different countries and coordinated with the host nation -- the host nation had lead -- to actually know what their priorities were before we began planning the mission.

So it's important to know that -- in my opinion -- that we follow the host nation lead in everything that we do in those countries and that we coordinate within the interagency to support all of our activities in those countries. And as a closing note: We will send an advance echelon team to Indonesia, our first mission country, to coordinate the final aspects of the mission, and they'll be leaving on the 28th of April.

So if anybody had any questions, well, how did you determine where you were going, how did you determine what you would be doing, it was through close coordination over the last six to eight months with the host nations to determine what we would be doing it and how we would be doing it.

So sometimes I think that that may be lost a little bit, but I thought I would explain that process just so everybody has kind of a clear understanding of how we determined not only what countries we were going to, which really was not my decision, it was made by CINCPAC -- or COMPAC Fleet, but it was actually how we decided where we were going to do the mission in each country and what we were going to be doing.

So again, in closing, I appreciate the opportunity. I think we all appreciate the opportunity. Those -- that concludes my statement here. I'll turn it over to Tim if he has any comments from the medical side. CAPT. HINMAN: Yeah. I'd just like to emphasize that we're real excited about coming out. We're bringing a tremendous capability and capacity. We plan to bring as much capacity as we can as far as building into the process and planning to each of the countries that we visit.

Part of our goal, part of our mission really is to form those relationships. And that's one of the things I'm excited about. I'm excited about going back to all of these countries where we have actually participated and planned together, whether it be at the initial planning conference, the mid-planning conference, our final planning conference, our senior leader visits, our predeployment site survey visits. We really know these people. It will be like going to see friends, in a certain extent. But we are forming relationships even as we plan, not just in the execution. So I'm terribly excited, and I know that we'll do good things.

Jon, do you have some comments?

CAPT. OLMSTED: I just want to close out with a brief plug for Military Sealift Command and the civilian crew members. We're all very



excited to participate. For many of us, this will be a first time for Pacific Partnership. For others, we have many returning participants from past Mercy missions, past Pacific Partnerships. And speaking on behalf of Military Sealift Command, this is a great opportunity for us and we're all very excited to participate.

Thank you.

MR. SELBY: Thank you very much, sir.

And with that, I'd like to thank everybody once again for your participation today. It's been a very good roundtable.

Today's program will be available online at DoDLive, where you'll be able to access a story based on today's call, along with source documents such as the audio file and a transcript, print transcript.

Again, thank you to everybody on the line. This concludes today's event. Feel free to disconnect at this time.

Q: Thank you, William.

Q: Thank you, William.

Q: Thank you, everyone.

MR. SELBY: Very welcome, sir. Very welcome, ma'am.

END.